



May 24, 2013

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Volume 4 Issue 20

## Navy commemorates 69th anniversary of West Loch Disaster

MC2 Sean Furey

Navy Public Affairs  
Support Element  
West Det. Hawaii

Service members, members of the African American Diversity Cultural Center Hawaii, and guests attended the Fourth Celebration of Life & Memory for West Loch internees at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

Service members from the Surface Navy Association also laid a ceremonial wreath at the site of the sunken LST on May 21.

The West Loch Disaster was an American World War II maritime accident that was kept secret for many years.

According to the U.S. Naval Institute website, the disaster led to the deaths of 163 U.S. service members and injured an additional 396 on May 21, 1944. The incident is not well known, in part because the event was classified top secret until 1960.

"Today we gather to honor, remember and pay our respects to the brave men who lost their lives on that fateful day," said Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"They were not just Sailors, Soldiers, Marines and Coast Guardsman, they were sons, brothers, husbands and fathers. These men answered the call of our



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joseph J. Chavez and Navy Capt. John Figuerres lay down a ceremonial wreath during the West Loch 69th anniversary. The West Loch Memorial honors the 163 Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who died and 396 wounded when a fuel and ammunition explosion occurred at West Loch during WWII on May 21, 1944.

nation as patriots committed to defeating our enemies."

An initial explosion aboard USS Landing Ship Tank (LST) 353 that fateful

Sunday afternoon subsequently spread fire among the tightly packed ships loaded with fuel and munitions. The resulting fires lasted 24

hours and led to the eventual sinking of six LSTs.

The disaster occurred in the West Loch peninsula at Pearl Harbor. At the time,

it was being used as a staging area for a fleet of 29 LSTs and other amphibious assault ships that were being loaded and prepared

for Operation Forager, an invasion of the Japanese-held Mariana Islands.

"The crews of these ships and tugboats engaged in fire-fighting showed unbelievable courage as explosions and fires raged," said Haney.

"Those firefighters would surge into the fray only to be driven back by erupting flames and startling explosions. They fought desperately to keep the fires from spreading to other ships at the anchorage."

In addition to the Sailors and Marines who prepared the ships for the upcoming operation, Army personnel from the predominantly African-American 29th Chemical Decontamination Company loaded the ships with munitions and supplies.

"Once I learned about this event, I found out that there is not much that we do to commemorate or remember it," said Capt. John Figuerres, commanding officer of Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific.

"We tried to start a tradition with Surface Navy Association, Pearl Harbor Chapter, and Afloat Training Group where every year on the anniversary of this tragedy we do a wreath laying," Figuerres said.

The cause of the disaster was never determined, but it is believed that a mortar round exploded during an unloading operation, setting off the chain reaction.

## Annual HURREX to be held from May 29 to June 7

Meg Petrone

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam  
Public Affairs

In preparation for hurricane season in Hawaii, Navy Region Hawaii will conduct its annual hurricane readiness exercise, HURREX, from May 29 to June 7 at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Pacific Missile Range Facility. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. This year, Navy Region Hawaii will conduct HURREX as a pre-landfall exercise from May 29 to 31 and June 3 to 4 and in conjunc-

tion with the State Civil Defense post-landfall exercise, Makani Pahili, on June 3 to 7.

"HURREX is not just about preparing internally but island-wide by making sure we can communicate and that we have a plan in place," said Dr. Michael Smith, Navy Region Hawaii director of training and readiness.

The Navy conducts HURREX to provide commands with the opportunity to prepare for hurricanes and the after effects. Field training and command post exercises will take place at JBPHH and PMRF.

According to James Sanders,

shore response and exercise planning manager, the purpose of HURREX is to "prepare fleet, fighter, and family for disaster and to get prepared now, instead of when it's too late."

HURREX representatives said that the objectives for this exercise are to create awareness and prevention. They explained that although Hawaii has not had a major storm in many years, it is not a question of if a storm will come, but when it will hit.

Practicing prevention techniques is vital because when the storm comes, personnel must be able to handle matters properly to

help ensure the least amount of damage will occur, the HURREX representatives noted. The Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) will be activated from June 5 to 7 for commands to ensure that their personnel have updated contact information in NFAAS.

TCCOR (tropical cyclone condition of readiness) levels will be set for commands to execute their TCCOR checklists. The Navy uses TCCOR levels based on the arrival of destructive winds, which triggers specific actions.

TCCOR III, or 48 hours before destructive winds arrive, is equiv-

alent to a hurricane "watch." TCCOR II, or 24 hours before destructive winds arrive, is similar to a hurricane "warning."

During the exercise, personnel on JBPHH and PMRF will notice exercise events and notifications taking place, including computer desktop notifications, Nixle alert system, JBPHH television messages, Facebook updates and marquee messages. All exercise-related events will be annotated by "exercise-exercise-exercise."

Additional articles about hurricanes and disaster preparedness will be included in future issues of Ho'okele.

## Navy names next two destroyers, including USS Daniel Inouye

U.S. Department  
of Defense

Office of the Assistant  
Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced yesterday that the next Arleigh Burke-class destroyers (DDG) will be named USS Daniel Inouye and USS Paul Ignatius.

"As secretary of the Navy it is my privilege to name these ships to honor a respected naval leader and a true American hero," Mabus said. "For decades to come, the future USS Paul Ignatius and USS Daniel Inouye will represent the United States and enable the building of partnerships and projection of power around the world."

The future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) is named to honor the late former Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii. Inouye was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Tuscany, Italy, during World War II and later became a U.S. senator.

The future USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) honors Paul Ignatius who served as secretary of the Navy 1967-1969 and as assistant secretary of defense under President Lyndon Johnson.

Inouye earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives when Hawaii became a state in 1959. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1963

and served there until his death last December at age 88. (Read a Navy "in memoriam" blog post about Inouye by Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, at <http://ow.ly/l16QK>.)

USS Daniel Inouye and USS Paul Ignatius will be the first naval ships to bear these names. DDG 117 and DDG 118 are part of the DDG 51 multiyear procurement with the contract award to the building yard pending. The ships will be 509 feet long, have a beam length of 59 feet and be capable of operating at speeds in excess of 30 knots.

For more news from secretary of the Navy public affairs, visit [www.navy.mil/SECNAV](http://www.navy.mil/SECNAV).



U.S. Senate photo

An Arleigh Burke-class destroyer will be named USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) in honor of the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, a Medal of Honor recipient.



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships visit Pearl Harbor  
See page A-2



USS Chung-Hoon Sailors celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month  
See page A-4



Safety  
See page A-3,6



New commander takes helm of NAVFAC Pacific  
See page A-2



Remembering the fallen  
See page B-1



Hickam Bowling Center reopens with new and improved equipment  
See page B-6



# Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships visit Pearl Harbor

Story and photo by  
MC1 Amanda Dunford

U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Public Affairs

Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) ships—landing ship tank JS Shimokita (LST 4002), destroyer JS Atago (DDG 177) and helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181)—departed Pearl Harbor on May 20 following a five-day port visit.

During the visit, JMSDF sailors conducted wreath-laying ceremonies at the USS Arizona Memorial, National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Makiki Cemetery and Ehime-Maru Memorial and offered ship tours while senior leaders conducted office calls with local military counterparts.

“These opportunities to renew relationships with our JMSDF counterparts are always valuable and rewarding,” said Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

“The stop of the ships here and our frequent operations together are reflective of the strong relationship between the U.S. Navy and JMSDF that is such an important underpinning of the U.S.-Japan alliance.”

Rear Adm. Hideki Yuasa, commander of Escort Flotilla 2, hosted a reception aboard Hyuga where guests, in addition to Haney, included Adm. Samuel Locklear, commander of U.S. Pacific Command; Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda, and other senior U.S. and Japanese commanders.

Yuasa noted that the partnership between Japan and the U.S. is beneficial to maintaining stability throughout the region.

“The Japanese, U.S. alliance is vital to secure Japan’s peace and security,” said Yuasa. “Our alliance is also important for us to participate in multilateral security operations to effectively respond to global security challenges.”

All three JMSDF ships are en route to San Diego to participate in multilateral exercise Dawn Blitz. Dawn Blitz is a scenario-driven exercise led by U.S. 3rd Fleet and I Marine Expeditionary Force that will test participants in the planning and execution of amphibious operations through a series of live training events.



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships, landing ship tank JS Shimokita (LST 4002), destroyer JS Atago (DDG 177) and helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181), were moored last week along the pier at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ships departed for San Diego May 20.

# New commander takes helm of NAVFAC Pacific

Storry and photo by  
Krista K. Catian

Naval Facilities Engineering  
Command Pacific Public Affairs

Capt. Bret Muilenburg relieved Rear Adm. Scott Weikert as commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific during a change of command ceremony May 14 at NAVFAC Pacific headquarters.

“We are lucky to have Bret Muilenburg take on this position. There’s nobody better suited for this job,” said Rear Adm. Kate Gregory, NAVFAC commander and chief of civil engineers.

“He really understands what we, the NAVFAC team, does out in the Pacific. We welcome and thank you for all that you’ve done to prepare and be here for this,” Gregory said.

Muilenburg, a familiar face around the Navy community in Hawaii, most recently served with Commander, Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) as a staff member; chief of staff for Commander,

Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH); and commanding officer of NAVFAC Hawaii.

Muilenburg was nominated in March for appointment to the rank

of rear admiral and assumes command of approximately 4,000 military and civilian men and women who work for NAVFAC Pacific and its three facilities engineering com-

mands in Hawaii, Guam and Japan. He will also serve as the PACFLT civil engineer.

“This organization is known for decades for handling tough jobs with extreme competence and achievement with quality individuals, which I’ve had the pleasure to work with these past months, and I look forward to the future with you. I’m very proud to serve with all of you folks,” Muilenburg said.

He is a registered professional engineer in Virginia and a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps. His personal awards include Legion of Merit (three awards), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and the commander in chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe Environmental Quality Award.

“Adm. Weikert sacrificed a lot to make sure our Navy could do what it needed to do to provide security out here in the Pacific,” said Gregory. “It’s truly a

tremendous effort, and I thank you for all you’ve done to make that happen. You have really shown what it means to be a naval officer and citizen of the United States.”

Weikert served as NAVFAC Pacific commander from October 2012 to May 2013. During his tenure, he led and inspired the team in fiscally challenging times. He will continue to serve as deputy commander for NAVFAC and deputy chief of civil engineers. Weikert plans to retire from the Navy in September.

“This has been one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences in my professional career,” said Weikert.

“I’ve never served in Hawaii and didn’t know what *ohana* was about, but I do now. I have the greatest respect and admiration for you, your patience, your perseverance, your professionalism and for the broad range of products and service you provide to our Navy. I thank you for everything you’ve taught me, and I will forever be grateful for that.”



Rear Adm. Kate Gregory (center), NAVFAC commander and chief of civil engineers, looks on as Capt. Bret Muilenburg (right) requests to relieve Rear Adm. Scott Weikert as commander of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific during a change of command ceremony held May 14 at NAVFAC Pacific headquarters.



Commentary

# Don't let alcohol drown a safe, healthy summer



**Rear Adm. Frank Ponds**

*Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific*

Region and MIDPAC team, we must work harder together to end inappropriate (under age) and irresponsible use of alcohol, which can put ourselves, our shipmates and our families at risk.

In our Navy, nearly half of all sexual incidents and assaults involve alcohol use and/or abuse. Fully two-thirds of unplanned pregnancies involve at least one

partner who was drunk. Most fatal car and motorcycle accidents involve alcohol, speed, poor decisions, or all three.

As we begin the Navy's summer safety campaign from this Memorial Day weekend through July 4 and all the way to Labor Day weekend, I need your help in focusing on alcohol abuse prevention.

The Chiefs on the Waterfront and petty officers of CSADD (Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions) are helping to get the word out using the popu-

lar "That Guy" campaign. Military and Family Support Center and DAPA (drug and alcohol programs advisor) counselors are educating Sailors about responsible drinking and the consequences of poor decisions.

Leaders at all levels are promoting and encouraging alternatives to drinking, and we are providing more programs and facilities for our Sailors that focus on their well being—away from alcohol and substance abuse.

Another tool now available to us is the alcohol detection device (ADD). I expect our commands to fully implement the ADD wherever possible. This tool will help enhance fitness, ensure safety and security, maintain maximum readi-

ness, and prevent abuse and misuse of alcohol.

Testing inspections with an ADD may be scheduled or unannounced. ADD is not designed to be used as a punitive weapon but instead as a tool to identify those at risk and afford them help before a career-ending or life-altering event.

The ADD tool will assist us in identifying service members who may not be fit and ready for duty because of how, when and where they used alcohol. In short, it will help us ensure a safer workplace for everyone.

Understanding how alcohol affects you and knowing what steps you can take to prevent abuse has never been easier. Resources are online at [thatguy.com](http://thatguy.com),

[nadap.navy.mil](http://nadap.navy.mil) and [safety.center.navy.mil](http://safety.center.navy.mil).

The Navy's "Keep What You Earned" campaign focuses on what a Sailor can lose if he or she makes a poor choice regarding alcohol. "The Domino Strategy" teaches people how to calculate the size, content and amount of alcohol a person consumes so each individual can make an informed decision. As a reminder, never drink and drive. It's just not worth the risk.

One of the best new programs is "Who Will Stand the Watch," a substance abuse prevention program that focuses on a Sailor's personal responsibility. Think about your shipmates and how they will be adversely impacted if you are removed

from duty because of an alcohol or substance abuse incident. We don't want to let our shipmates down, and being there is what it means to be a shipmate.

Alcohol-impaired judgment puts all at risk. We don't want to disappoint our families. And, if we stop to think about it, we don't want to adversely affect our jobs or our careers because of a momentary lapse of judgment. Remember, a poor choice made in a moment can have a lifetime of negative consequences. Let's have a good and fun summer. Let's stay healthy, safe and ready. So, "think before you drink"...

*Read more about staying safe this summer in upcoming issues of Ho'okele News.*

## Diverse Views



**What's the most dangerous thing you have ever done, and what advice would you give to others?**

**Information Systems Technician  
2nd Class Jennifer Miller  
MIDPAC**

"The most dangerous thing I've ever done was to learn how to ride a motorcycle in the state of Hawaii. The advice I would give to anyone that is interested in riding bikes is to take the course that is offered on base or at Leeward Community College and make sure you feel comfortable on the bike that you decide to buy."



**Fire Controlman 2nd Class Stephanie Harrod  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam**



"I used to speed in my car. I got pulled over (going over 100 mph in the mainland) and got an expensive ticket. I'm never going to do that again. My advice would be to watch the speed limit. You getting pulled over takes longer than just driving at the speed limit, and it's not worth it."

**Ship's Serviceman 3rd  
Class Davis Lear  
Unaccompanied Housing  
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam**



"The most dangerous thing I've done would be BMX riding (jumping big hills – it's fun). I would advise others to do it, too."



**Senior Airman Lewis Motta  
48th Aerial Port Squadron**  
"Surfing. Surf's up right now, about 6 to 8 feet. My advice is to know your limits. When in doubt, don't go out."

**Master Sgt. William Hilton  
PACAF A6**

"Installing cables in a hangar 50 feet off the ground. Use your ORM [operational risk management] principles."



*(Provided by MC2 Nardel Gervacio and Brandon Bosworth).*

*Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views?  
Got opinions to share?*

**Drop us a line at [editor@hookelenews.com](mailto:editor@hookelenews.com) or [karen.spangler@navy.mil](mailto:karen.spangler@navy.mil)**

Oahu's natural wonders makes it ideal for a 'navigation'

Life & Leisure  
Oahu's natural wonders

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Commentary

## Testament to the fallen

**Col. Johnny Roscoe**

*15th Wing commander*



Memorial Day will soon be upon us, and in the midst of the time-honored tradition of barbecues and family celebrations I ask you to take a moment to reflect on what the holiday actually represents—a solemn day of remembrance in honor of those who died in service of our country.

I ask you to pay respects to our fallen brothers and sisters in arms who stemmed the tide of aggression in the Pacific during the Second World War, fanned the flame of liberty throughout the Middle East, and, to their last breath, never yielded their beliefs in the face of oppression.

We owe them a debt that will never fade nor can ever be repaid. It is with a humble countenance that we remember their passing through our celebration of the freedoms for which they fought and died.

Likewise, I can think of no better way to limit future loss of life in military conflict than to never forget the terrible price paid by those that died in the past and what they died for. If we strive to uphold the ideals for which

they died, their deaths will not have been in vain.

This is hallowed ground that we live and work on every day, paid for by the blood of our predecessors just a couple generations past. Memorial Day is a testament and a celebration to them in that we live free from oppression and that the Stars and Stripes still flies over the great state of Hawaii.

While Memorial Day may be celebrated as an American holiday, those that gave their lives in the service of our nation had an everlasting impact beyond our shores. Through generations of sacrifice, America developed an unprecedented culture of freedom and prosperity that the rest of the world still strives to emulate. Today America is a symbol of hope to oppressed people around the world, largely due to those that laid down their life to promote the cause of freedom.

We now sit at the forefront of the mightiest military force that the world has ever seen, but despite the advances in technology and training, the fragility of the lives of those that wear the uniform endures. The list of the departed can never grow shorter and the weight of our responsibility to carry on in their name will never grow lighter.

Though we may seem spatially separated from combat here in Hawaii since the end of the Second World War, we are not immune to the consequences of war. On this special day, I ask you to remember the 40 American service members of all branches from Hawaii that have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, most recently Capt. Reid Nishizuka on April 27.

Members of the 15th Wing stand in harm's way throughout the Pacific and the world every day, and I pray that precious few will have to give their lives, never to see their families again, in order to preserve that right for others.

## Memphis Belle celebrates anniversary of service



**Photo of the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force**

One of history's most famous aircraft celebrated two anniversaries last weekend. Seventy years ago the B-17F Memphis Belle was flying over the skies of Europe on bombing missions during World War II. On May 17, 1943, Capt. Robert K. Morgan flew the Memphis Belle against a target in Lorient, France. Two days later, on May 19, 1943, Lt. C. Anderson and his crew flew the Memphis Belle on its 25th officially credited mission to Keil, Germany. Today, the famed aircraft is undergoing restoration at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.



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U.S. Navy photo by PS3 (SW) Domicia L. Humphries

Sailors participate in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration on the mess decks of the only Navy ship named for a Hawaiian admiral, the USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93). Chung-Hoon and its Sailors are on a six-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility to promote peace and stability in the region.

## USS O’Kane hosts special needs adults

**Ensign Calvin A. Sessions**

*USS O’Kane (DDG 77)  
Public Affairs Officer*

Special needs adults from Easter Seals Disability Services Hawaii recently took a tour of the Navy guided-missile destroyer USS O’Kane (DDG 77) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

An avid supporter of community outreach, the crew of O’Kane opened their doors to provide the group from Easter Seals with a glimpse of life aboard a naval warship.

“This tour was a great opportunity for O’Kane to reach out to the local community, and the enthusiasm of our Easter Seals guests really made me proud to be able to introduce them to the Navy and the ship. The event was a great reminder of our role to protect and serve our fellow citizens, and the kind-

ness demonstrated by these individuals really resonated with my crew,” said Cmdr. Michael Ray, commanding officer of O’Kane.

During the visit, the crew of O’Kane shared their roles and duties with the five guests of Easter Seals, starting with a demonstration on properly requesting permission to come aboard

tion of the engineering control plant station, and Operations Specialist 1st Class Matthew Gilley’s interactive demonstration of the combat information center. The tour ended on the mess decks where the visitors were able to meet the ship’s commanding officer.

“You guys were professional, and I appreciate

“The enthusiasm of our Easter Seals guests really made me proud to be able to introduce them to the Navy and the ship.”

—Cmdr. Michael Ray,

a U.S. Navy ship with the officer of the deck.

Other points of the tour included Boatswain’s Mate 2nd Class Trace Barnett demonstrating boatswain pipe calls on the forecastle, Machinist’s Mate 1st Class Michael Eman’s presenta-

tion of the engineering control plant station, and Operations Specialist 1st Class Matthew Gilley’s interactive demonstration of the combat information center. The tour ended on the mess decks where the visitors were able to meet the ship’s commanding officer.

that you treated everyone with a lot of respect,” said Kacey Shreve, Easter Seals Hawaii representative. “These guys are adults, so it was really awesome. This tour is one of the best things we have ever done with the program.”

## USS Chung-Hoon Sailors celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

**Story by Ensign Augustus T. Karisch**

*USS Chung-Hoon (DDG-93) Public Affairs*

Sailors from the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 21.

The month of May is an opportunity to recognize Chung-Hoon’s namesake, a native Hawaiian, Rear Adm. Gordon Paiea Chung-Hoon. He was the first Asian-American to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1934 as well as rise to the rank of rear admiral.

“Our ship is named after an American who epitomized the diversity of our country. We are honored to serve on a ship named for a man who accomplished so much during his life despite the obstacles that he must have faced in his time,” said Cmdr. Justin Orlich, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon.

“Today he would be proud to see the incredible cultural diversity, a reflection of our great nation, represented here on our mess decks,” noted Orlich.

The ceremony began with a brief history lesson from Lt. Peter Lesaca, combat systems officer, who is a first-generation American with Philippine heritage. “Asian [and] Pacific Islanders have made our country bigger and brighter again and again. Their story is the American story,” said Lesaca.

The ceremony was hosted by the ship’s multi-cultural committee and included an interactive trivia game with the crew about culturally influential Asian-Pacific Islander Americans. It concluded with a cake-cutting which was presented by the ship’s culinary specialists and cut by Asian and Pacific Islander crew members.

“It is always important to remember and be proud of our cultural heritage and to take the best parts of everyone’s background to make a stronger nation and a more effective Navy,” said Hull Technician 3rd Class Edward Pukdeesri.

Chung-Hoon and its Sailors are on a six-month deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility to promote peace and stability in the region.



U.S. Navy photo by Fire Controlman 1st Class Shod Williams

Cmdr. Michael Ray (standing), USS O’Kane (DDG 77) commanding officer, presents the ship’s commanding officer coins to guests of Easter Seals Disability Services Hawaii during their tour of the ship.



# Pearl Harbor-Hickam*Highlights*

The rusted hull of USS LST-480 remains in the water at West Loch, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The remains represent the 163 Soldiers, Sailors and Marines who died and 396 wounded when a fuel and ammunition explosion occurred at West Loch during WWII on May 21, 1944.

U.S. Navy photo by MC Seaman Johans Chavarro



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Sean Furey

Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, speaks with Capt. Yasuhiro Sato, chief staff officer, commander Escort Flotilla 2, aboard the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force helicopter destroyer JS Hyuga (DDH 181). Hyuga made a scheduled port visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. See related story on P. A-20.

A traditional Hawaiian blessing May 22 marked the completion of the Bailey Bridge at Kolekole Pass Road. (From left) Walking on the bridge are Capt. Jeffrey James, commander of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; Rear Adm. Frank Ponds, commander of Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific; Pastor Ed Sproat; Cmdr. Joseph Pope, director facilities engineering and acquisition division, NAVFAC Hawaii; and Dennis McElrath, president of FOPCO, Inc.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Nardel Gervacio



Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) JS Shimokita (LST 4002) departs Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Along with JMSDF ships JS Atago (DDG 177) and JS Hyuga (DDH 181), the Shimokita is en route to San Diego to participate in multilateral exercise Dawn Blitz.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Dustin W. Sisco





# Keep What You’ve Earned: Rewarding Sailors for responsible choices

MC1 (SW/AW)  
Molly A. Burgess

*Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element Norfolk*

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) — On April 1 the launch of a year-round campaign was implemented throughout the Navy as part of an ongoing initiative to encourage Sailors to make choices that will help them keep what they have successfully earned during their naval career.

The “Keep What You’ve Earned” (KWYE) campaign is a continuing effort to encourage responsible drinking habits. It focuses on achievements through recognition for dedication and hard work in hopes that Sailors will realize how much can be lost if they make poor choices in regard to alcohol.

According to Fleet Master Chief April D. Beldo, Manpower Personnel Training and

Education, although the rates of Navy alcohol-related incidents (ARI) and driving under the influence (DUI) have decreased, one incident is too many.

“This campaign is updated to reach out in a personal way to all Sailors, particularly those under 25, who have had 60 percent of the alcohol-related incidents,” said Beldo.

“Over the last five years, the number of ARIs has been reduced by almost half. We need to continue to reduce ARIs so that we have the safest and most professional force to lead the Navy’s future.”

Unlike previous programs and campaigns to encourage all-hands participation up and down the ranks, KWYE highlights monthly alcohol-related messages that reflect on the campaign’s mission for leadership to facilitate and talk about among their Sailors.

Monthly message topics will provide variety to ensure that

the campaign is heard, said Beldo. “During the week leading to Memorial Day, the next phase of the KWYE campaign will launch, in alignment with the Navy’s ‘Live to Play, Play to Live’ summer safety campaign, including dissemination of the videos and summer safety-related messaging,” Beldo said.

The 52 weekly discussion topics are a way for leaders to remind their Sailors about responsible drinking habits.

“There is also social media messaging, and an ‘app’ that will be coming out soon that can be downloaded onto portable devices,” said Chief Quarter-master John Renaud, drug and alcohol program advisor, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

Beldo said that for the campaign development, it heavily leveraged direct Sailor input and feedback to design the concept.

“The research, conducted over the last year, identified specific

messaging that resonated with all Navy as well as those most at risk,” Beldo said.

“That research included review of civilian efforts, focus groups and Navy culture.”

By actively engaging Sailors as advocates, the campaign seeks to enhance the awareness of not only the consequences of poor alcohol-related choices, but promoting and encouraging alternative choices to drinking as well as delegation of responsibility.

“Being an advocate for responsible drinking is not only a leadership responsibility, it is the responsibility of every Sailor in the fleet,” said Beldo.

The campaign also focuses on establishing a partnership and collaboration between the Navy and civilian programs that are also focused on Sailors’ well-being.

“Research shows that community-based alcohol abuse prevention and intervention programs can have a positive impact on

drinking habits,” Beldo said. “Working with community organizations, MWR and Navy commands encourage positive behaviors such as safe ride home programs, designated driver or public transportation arrangements.”

The campaign is in alignment with the SECNAV’s 21 Century Sailor and Marine Initiative and the Joint Fleet Forces and Pacific Fleet Campaign against irresponsible use of alcohol through celebrating and rewarding naval career achievements.

“We must all work together to create and maintain a responsible drinking environment. Remind Sailors of their accomplishments and encourage positive decision making regarding alcohol,” said Beldo. “Let’s all keep what we’ve earned.”

Check out the tips, multimedia and other resources which are available online and download at <http://ow.ly/lgDZg>.

## Expo helps to provide hurricane information



Photo by Jack Terry

The Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) hosted a Hurricane Expo on May 18. Participants included Navy Region Hawaii disaster preparedness officials, the American Red Cross of Hawaii, the City and County of Honolulu Emergency Management Office and the Hawaiian Humane Society. The expo included information booths and displays of items the NEX carries which should go into a disaster preparedness kit.

## Click It Or Ticket



U.S. Navy photo

As summer kicks off, Sailors including Lt. Corey Taylor made a difference by placing motor vehicle safety reminder banners throughout Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.



# U.S. Pacific Fleet hosts Senior Enlisted Leadership Training Symposium

**MC2 Tiarra Fulgham**

*Navy Public Affairs Support  
Element West, Det Hawaii*

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) recently hosted a Senior Enlisted Leadership Training Symposium at COMPACFLT headquarters with senior representatives from Pacific Fleet regional and type commander staffs.

The two-day training symposium provided an opportunity for senior enlisted leaders to interact directly with new Fleet Master Chief Marco Ramirez and Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, and to get a

better understanding of the issues Sailors encounter in the Pacific Fleet.

“We thought to bring the leaders here so we could meet them and discuss the issues that are affecting our Navy today, issues including money and how we are battling that,” said Ramirez. “We have to ask ourselves are we ready, can we maintain readiness, because we are war fighters and we want to be ready. When the time comes, we want to be able to deliver the power.”

Haney spoke to the senior enlisted leaders about the importance of how the U.S. Navy implements change.

“We are looking at how we

do everything, including funding, maritime strategy, manning and training,” said Haney.

“We must find different ways of doing business to ensure the solutions we come up with are sensible. I rely on the chiefs’ mess to ensure that the messages we put out really resonate with our Sailors throughout the Pacific Fleet, as well as the Navy,” he said.

One of the major topics this year was on efforts to effectively focus on sexual assault awareness.

“We have come a long way. We still have a way to go and with leadership and mentorship, I think we can get there,” said Force Master Chief Cash Caldwell, Submarine Force Pacific Fleet.



U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Amanda Dunford

Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks with U.S. Pacific Fleet Master Chief (AW/IDW) Marco Ramirez, force master chiefs and command master chiefs during a round-table discussion.

## Military high school valedictorians bid aloha to Hawaii public schools

**David Tom**

*School Liaison Officer,  
Navy Region Hawaii*

For most military students, the month of May and high school graduations mark the end of continually changing schools and transitioning challenges with each PCS since kindergarten. Despite these hurdles, a number of military students have excelled and are graduating as valedictorians.

Kapolei High School has six Navy and Air Force (one Navy, two retired Navy and three retired Air Force) out of 12 total valedictorians. These military valedictorians will attend Gonzaga University, University of Hawaii, Brigham Young University, Waldorf University and Hawaii Pacific University.

Radford High School has 10 military of 17 total valedictorians. The Navy students are Quentin Harris (Oregon State University), Emma Kurgan (deciding between Vanderbilt University and University of California at Berkley), Rebecca Law (University of Texas at Austin) and Nicole Sager (University of South Florida).

The Air Force students are Chandler Carlson (deciding between University of California at Berkeley, University of Denver and University of Texas at

Austin), Madeline Skrocki (Yale University) and Rebecca Wood (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

Coming from Stuttgart, Germany, after the 10th grade, Carlson said, “I was looking forward to a more laid back type of schooling, but was delightfully surprised. Radford provided me with an incredible and diverse opportunity, matched with unending support from students, teachers and staff.”

Harris, who attended Radford all four years, said he appreciated its diverse environment. “I learned about the wonders of high school by joining the robotics class and paddling club. My advanced placement classes helped me prepare for college. I will major in mechanical engineering and join ROTC,” Harris shared.

“Everyone at Radford was very welcoming and supportive. I could always count on folks,” said Sager, who entered Radford in the ninth grade.

“I heard rumors about school in Hawaii before arrival but found them to be untrue. I know that certain schools have an academic reputation, but I learned that what you put in is what you get out of all schools. I plan to study psychiatry,” she said.

Skrocki lived in seven states and one foreign country, and she did not expect moving to Hawaii



Photo courtesy Radford High School

(Left to right): Quentin Harris, Madeline Skrocki, Nicole Sager and Chandler Carlson, included among this year’s valedictorians at Radford High School, are Navy and Air Force family members. Of the 17 valedictorians at the school, 10 are from Navy and Air Force families.

to have a profound impact on her life. “In time, I came to realize that Radford is more than just another public school. It is filled with caring educators and a student population rich in culture

that accurately represents the microcosm of the Asian, Pacific and European cultures that define present-day Hawaii,” she said.

“My value as a distinct individual was recognized and embraced,

just as I had embraced the individualism of the places where I had formerly lived. I will study political science and have accepted an Air Force ROTC Scholarship,” she said.